

A REPORT ON NEEDS AND EXISTING SERVICES
FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED
IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

REPORT NUMBER FOURTEEN

Minneapolis
Association
for Retarded
Children



HOLD HIGH A LAMP TO LIGHT THEIR WAY

S E R V I N G M I N N E A P O L I S A N D H E N N E P I N C O U N T Y

Prepared by: Board of Directors, Minneapolis Association
for Retarded Children

For: Hennepin County Community Welfare Council
Committee on Services for the Retarded.

A Report on Activities of The Minneapolis Association for Retarded Children and Existing Needs for the Mentally Retarded in Hennepin County.

ABOUT MARC

The Minneapolis Association for Retarded Children was established in 1946 as the Friends of the Mentally Retarded. It was one of the first such groups in the United States. In 1952 the name was changed, to indicate affiliation with the National Association which was organized in Minneapolis in 1950.

MARC maintains its headquarters at 321 Kresge Building, Minneapolis, and employs a full time Executive Director.

In the current fiscal year close to \$30,000. will be expended by MARC on behalf of the retarded.

MARC membership has grown to over 500 and participation and activities continue to increase at a rapid rate.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The Minneapolis Association has as its aim the coordination of activities for the retarded in Hennepin County and Columbia Heights. There is no other agency in the community which seems to have such a comprehensive, coordinated knowledge of all the facilities available to help retarded children and their parents. Although members of MARC are not, for the most part, professionals, they do have collectively a wide general knowledge of the whole field of mental retardation.

Members of MARC have become experts in legislation, special education, public information and facilities for the retarded. They are called on by legislators and others for advice.

PURPOSES

From Constitution and By-Laws

To promote the general welfare of mentally retarded children of all ages in Minneapolis and elsewhere:

To further the advancement of all ameliorative and preventative study, research and therapy in the field of mental retardation;

To develop a better understanding of mental retardation by the public;

To co-operate with all public and private agencies engaged in activities related to mental retardation.

To further the training and education of personnel for work in the field, of mental retardation;

To encourage parents of mentally retarded children to form groups and to coordinate the efforts and activities of such groups;

To do all things and perform all acts necessary, incidental or convenient to accomplish, carry out and promote the aforesaid purposes.

ABOUT NARC

The National Association for Retarded Children continues to grow. There are now over 400 chapters in the U. S.

MARC is the official affiliate covering Minneapolis, Hennepin County and Columbia Heights. Only one parents group in any one County or area can belong to NARC. Members of MARC have been active in MARC since its founding.

MARC WORKS CLOSELY WITH OTHER GROUPS

Close working relations have been established with:

Members of the State Legislature
Members of the State Executive Council
Department Heads of the State Department of
Public Welfare Department
Heads of the State Department of
Education Welfare Workers in
the Hennepin County Welfare
Board Department Heads of the Community
Chest and
Council Department Heeds
and Special Class Teachers
of the Minneapolis Department
of Education
Members of the School Boards
Psychiatrists and Pediatricians

MEMBERS OF MARC SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

Sheltering Arms, Advisory Board,
Day Care Center, Advisory Board.
Woman's Club, "Friends of the Retarded" Committee,
Citizens Committee on Public Education,
Minnesota Council for Special Education,
Minnesota Conference on Mental Deficiency,
Community Chest and Council,
Governor's Committee on Community Services

MARC PROVIDES NON-DIRECTIVE AID AND COUNSEL FOR PARENTS

When parents ere first told that their child is mentally retarded a period of shock, confusion, and emotional distress generally follows.

During this period the parents feel "alone".

Parents are helped by putting them in contact with other parents, placing them in contact with local professionals in the field, exposing them to the benefits of group therapy and group education and making the latest literature and books available to them on Mental Retardation.

Parents are referred to MARC by Doctors, Social Workers and other professionals. The staff of MARC gives assistance to parents with their problems through referral and discussion. Services in Hennepin County and Minnesota for retarded have been compiled into a "Services Report".

MARC performs its public information work by presentations to Commissions of the State Legislature, a Speakers Bureau, Newspaper, T.V. Radio and individual contacts. This year two brochures and four reports have been prepared. Speakers have appeared before service groups, Doctors' conferences, school Boards, Veterans' Groups, etc.

Thus the matter of public education and information becomes a primary duty and responsibility of MARC.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER GROUPS IN THE FIELD.

Sheltering Arms - A Research and Training Center for the Retarded. Financed by the Episcopal Churches of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the Minneapolis School Board.

A member of MARC serves on the Advisory Board.

We are anxious to be helpful to this worthwhile activity. If at some time it becomes necessary for the Sheltering Arms to raise money through a general public solicitation, we would like to be consulted and if possible take on the responsibility or help - thus avoiding duplicate fund raising.

-Elliot Day Care Center

MARC spearheaded this program with the cooperation of community groups. During the first year and a half we covered the operating deficit alone. At present we are sharing the deficit with the Community Chest.

There seems to be a need for more coordination between Elliot Park, Welfare Council and MARC. It does not seem clear as to what group or committee is setting the policy for the Day Care Center.

The feeling among our members on the Advisory Board is that they are not asked for advice or given any responsibility for planning.

The Advisory Committee was chosen for its expertness and should, we feel, be relied upon for guidance and policy.

Our contribution to this program for 1956 is \$5500.00.

RECREATION GROUPS

Through MARC three recreation groups have been organized. One has been discontinued. At present the Fun Club, for working retardates, is staffed by a group worker from the Twin City Follow Up Clinic of the Minnesota Department of Welfare. An afternoon group for more severely retarded is financed by MARC. Another group is planned for N. E. and is expected to start this Spring at the N. E. Neighborhood House.

Our function has been to interest organizations in recreation groups, finance them where necessary and continue to help as needed.

Silver Lake Island Camp.

This Camp is located at the Salvation Army Camp on Silver Lake, Columbia Heights. Facilities are made available during the month of August by the Salvation Army, including food, linens, etc. The staff is provided through the efforts of a Camping Committee, composed of members of various groups which work with the retarded.

This year MARC has taken on the responsibility of raising up to \$1500. for this Camp. Two members of our association serve on the Camping Committee, Board of Directors and are able to help coordinate efforts.

This is one of our first efforts to raise money for another facility and we feel it will be very effective.

There is a real interest on the part of the Camping Committee in coordination.

Rolling Acres Camp

This Camp is located in Carver County on Schultz Lake. It is a non-profit stock corporation and was organized by a group of parents with the thought that it would be developed as a private residential home for their retarded children. It now serves as a state-wide camp.

Our relationship with this group is not real close, although we have budgeted \$100. for camping scholarships for 1956.

We feel that this group is sincere; however, there should be more coordination, alnce funds for this are raised partly through solicitation in Minneapolis. There is a need for more coordination, especially where fund raising is concerned.

Boy Scout Troop Tor Retarded

Minneapolis had the first Boy Scout Troop in the United States outside of an institution. For several years it has been sponsored by MARC. This group raises some money through special events. At present there are 17 boys in the Troop. It would seem that there is a need for a second, troop.

Opportunity Workshop

This is a sheltered workshop serving 30 young adults.

The relationship of MARC to Opportunity Workshop is not what could be called close; however, no problems exist which we know of. We feel that there has been a somewhat strained relationship.

The fund raising of this group has conflicted with our yearly drive on occasion and we feel coordination would be helpful.

MARC contributed \$400. to Opportunity Workshop since

1955. Home Study School

This has been a private venture until recently. We understand that it is now incorporated as a non-profit group. Because it has been a private venture we have not been called on to coordinate activities. This, however, will be ---

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COORDINATION

Coordination of Services, plans and fund raising at some point becomes a must.

It would seem to the Board of Directors of MARC that since ours is the association recognized as having the responsibility for the cause of the retarded that the job of coordination falls on our shoulders.

The need for coordination of services has become greater with the rapid growth of public interest in the problems of the mentally retarded.

EXISTING NEEDS

We see the following as some of the existing needs for the retarded in Hennepin County. Our work with parents, teachers, etc. bear out these needs.

They are not arranged in order of importance, but as a parent or child could be expected to face them from birth to adulthood:

1. Need to educate Doctors to recognize and diagnose problems.
2. More complete diagnostic facilities, perhaps a diagnostic center with a team, including the following, as necessary -
 - a) Pediatrician
 - b) Neurologist
 - c) Orthopedist
 - d) Endocrinologist
 - e) Neurosurgeon
 - f) Psychiatrist
 - g) Psychologist
 - h) Otologist
 - i) Opthamologist
 - j) Dentist
 - k) Social Worker
 - l) Speech Therapist
 - a) Occupational " Physical Therapist
3. Need for greater knowledge about retardation among Doctors, Ministers, Nurses, Group Workers, Teachers, School Administrators, Etc.
4. Need for visiting workers to help parents learn to care for their retarded children at home.
5. Need for Physical Therapy and Speech Training facilities,
6. Day Care facilities for children under 5 years, both ambulatory and non-ambulatory.
7. Another Day Care Center for children 3-10 years. Perhaps in North Minneapolis.
8. More classes and improvement in Public School programs:
 - a) There is a need for a planned, tested, curriculum for Special Classes.
 - b) Some Principals will not hate Special Classes in their schools. Often Special Classes are isolated and are not accepted by teachers or principals. This attitude is reflected in normal children and their parents.

- c) In Hennepin County only 47% of the children who should be in special classes are, based on the estimate that 2% of all school children should be in classes for the retarded.
- d) Classes for retarded are shifted from school to school to make room for classes of normal children.
- e) Most special class students in Minneapolis must eat lunch at school - provisions for the lunch hour, supervision, milk, lunchrooms, etc. are not always adequate.
- f) More intense testing program to establish extent of need.
- g) Need for more special class teachers.

9. There is a need for planned directed job training and placement for educable level of retarded.

10. Many more retarded need the service of workshop training.

11. People coming out of State Institutions need a supervised residence to enable them to live and work in the community.

12,- Recreation and Leisure Time.

- a) Expansion of camping
- b) A Day Camp program for younger children
- c) More recreation groups
- d) Establishment of groups for retarded within existing agencies such as YMCA, YWCA, Park Board, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Etc,

13. School program for severely retarded over 10 years old. 14.

Programs for older retarded in their homes.

15. Some method of reaching parents of retarded children earlier than at present. Parent adjustment is essential to operation and use of all facilities.

THE ROLE OF MARC

We see the Minneapolis Association for Retarded Children as the one overall agency working for the mentally retarded. In this capacity MARC at the present time is active in areas of legislation, education, parent counseling, public information, recreation, day care, etc.

MARC performs a function of liason with State Institution reporting on facilities and care to parents. There are about 900 children in institutions from Hennepin County.

Establishment of facilities for retarded children is an important area of work. A continuance of our methods of promoting pilot facilities, either in connection with other agencies or on our own is, we feel, necessary.

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The purposes of MARC are broad as outlined earlier. It would be easy to write many more pages on the services and needs for retarded children; however, we will be better able to evaluate our role after the Welfare Council Committee has completed its study.